



582
November
2013

HF Happenings

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iau.org www.iau-r1.org



THE BIG PICTURE (Of Expedition Operating ...)

With the unspeakable behaviour by amateur radio operators over the last few weeks trying to work the many DXpeditions on the air, Rick, K6VVA, (aka The Locust), well known IOTA DXer, has put together an interesting video. He writes about the video, 'The BIG PICTURE Of Expedition Operating and the Direct Relationship to Anti-Social Pileup Behaviour' describes the problems and also solutions to the dysfunctional behaviour we unfortunately hear in DX and IOTA Pileups on the Amateur Radio bands these days." The 45 minute video can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/svLlfrFA-1E>

South Sudan - Hans, PB2T

On 15 November, IARU Region 1 organised a Radio Spectrum/Regulatory Workshop with the aim to assist the South Sudanese administration with the implementation of amateur radio. The workshop was part of a goodwill project in cooperation with Radio Arcala, DX University, the YASME Foundation, Rock City Investments Co, Yaesu Musen Co. Ltd of Japan and the European DX Foundation. The workshop took place on the compound of the European Union in Juba the capital of South Sudan. Most of the 21 participants work for the South Sudanese Radio Communications Agency, others came from the Ministry of Interior.

South Sudan became an independent country in 2011. Currently amateur Radio is allowed on a provisional basis. There are two resident foreign amateurs who received full amateur privileges. Since 2011 only one DXpedition was active from South Sudan. The license fee of USD 100 is something that a foreign amateur can afford. However for a national of a country with a GDP per capita of around USD 1 000 it is an excessive amount.

Import of amateur radio equipment is complicated but possible with the permission of the Ministry of Telecommunications and Postal Services.

The objectives of this workshop were

- to train regulators on the administration on the amateur service and amateur-satellite service;
- to assist the administration on creation of amateur-radio regulations and the related national frequency allocation table;
- to discuss the amateur radio's benefits for the society;
- to evaluate the prospects of establishing

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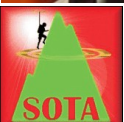
Have **YOU** done
anything today to
Promote
Amateur Radio?

November

2 - RaDAR Contest
9 and 10 - 60 Metre Activity Weekend
10 - Remembrance Sunday; PEARS HF Contest
11 - Armistice Day
14 - logs for 60 metre Activity Weekend
16 and 17 - SARL National Field Day
23 and 24 - CQ WW DX CW Contest
25 - logs for the National field Day

December

1 - SARL Digital Contest; World Aids Day
3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
4 - All schools close
14 and 15 - ARRL 10 metre contest
16 - Day of Reconciliation
21 - Summer Solstice
25 - Christmas Day
26 - Day of Goodwill



Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org
And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk



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the amateur radio service for South Sudanese nationals.

Our program included the following subjects:

- Organisation of ITU;
- ITU Radio Regulations articles 1.56, 1.57, 5, 19 and 25;
- organisation of IARU;
- introduction to Amateur Radio Activities;
- how society can benefit from Amateur Radio, with relevant education and emergency communications;
- National Frequency Allocation Table - introduction of amateur spectrum;
- National Amateur Legislation.

Are we done?

The introduction of amateur radio in a new country can not be completed in a one day workshop. The country has so many more important things to take care of that introduction of amateur radio to South Sudanese nationals will only be successful with the consistent help of the international amateur community. The next step (to be taken this week) is to explore cooperation with the University of Juba in order to set up a training program for the first generation of South Sudanese radio amateurs.

Did we operate?

On Saturday I had the privilege to spend about four hours behind a radio in Z81D's shack in Rock City, close to Juba. While the rest of our team was busy setting up low band verticals and beverages, I made some 650 QSOs on 12 and 10 metres on SSB. The rest of the team will stay in South Sudan until the end of November focussing on low bands. By the time I got home on Monday morning, the team had already 5 000 QSOs in the log with 2 000 on 160 and 80 metres.

Typical Rock City radio shack.



From the DXCC Desk

Why 5A1AL is being rejected for DXCC? Sharon Taratula, Administrative Manager, states: "The DXCC Department hasn't received complete documentation for the 5A1AL operation. DXCC operations require the license of the operation, evidence of authorization for landing, and/or proof of transportation and/or entry. A landing permit is generally issued by a government agency, and grants the person or group permission to enter certain areas for purposes including the operation of an Amateur Radio station. Proof of transportation and/or entry may be a statement by a boat captain or aircraft pilot, certifying that the persons involved were transported to the entity in question."

Operating Tip

With CQ WW CW upon us, the subject of cut numbers ("N" for "9", "A" for "1", etc.) will no doubt come up. While K9NW refers to ARRL DX CW exchanges here, there is plenty that applies to WW and other contests.

Every time there's a "number" contest, the topic of cut numbers comes up, i.e., what you should log, etc. You can rest assured that the log checking team operates the contest and they know what this stuff means - and they have software that also knows what this stuff means. The easiest way to deal with cut numbers is to just learn them. There are only a few that are in regular use. You don't have to use them, you don't even have to like them. But you might as well accept that they're going to be used by others. No need to over-think this.

Vertical quarter-wave and Vertical dipole antennas

Over the summer, Jim, K9YC, did extensive modelling (NEC) of vertical quarter-wave and vertical dipole antennas, comparing performance on the ground and at typical roof heights. A report <http://k9yc.com/publish.htm> on that work is available online in the form of PDF slides from the PowerPoint presentation Jim gave at the Pacificon convention in October. He notes in summary, "For all vertical antenna types and almost all soil quality, roof mounting outperforms ground mounting. The advantage of roof mounting is greatest for the poorest soil, varying from as much as 8 dB for very poor soil to a dB or so for extremely good soil."

Velocity Factor (VF) vs frequency

Dan, AC6LA, has released TLDetails <http://ac6la.com/> to plot Velocity Factor (VF) vs frequency for any of about a hundred different types of feed lines, including Bury-Flex. Sample plots <http://ac6la.com/tldplot2.png> show that the higher the loss, the more the VF drops off at lower frequencies. Jim, K9YC, notes that before cutting stubs for filters or matching, "determine VF for the coax you're using and don't count on the published value being right. Most solid dielectric coax is close to 0,66 and most foam is in the range of 0,75 - 0,85."

The polarity of baluns

Matt, KM5VI, relays the important point about taking time to confirm the polarity of baluns in arrays. It is not unknown for two baluns from the same manufacturer with identical part numbers wired with the load side connections internally reversed with respect to the casing of the unit. A reversed connection would greatly alter the antenna's performance.

DXCC News

The following operation is approved for DXCC credit:

ZS8C and ZS8Z - Prince Edward & Marion Is., Current operation for 2013 to May 2014.

Note: 2 student amateurs are expected to join in upon completion of their licensing, which will make it four (4) operators. I'll update this approval when I have more information

73 es DX! Bill Moore, NC1L, Awards Branch Manager

(Thank you Tjerk, ZS6P)

African DX

Morocco, 5C. Members of the URE Cartagena team will be active from the ARRAN HQ club station CN8MC in Rabat as 5C5T during the CQ WW DX CW Contest (23 and 24 November) as a Multi-Single/Low-Power entry. QSL via EA5YU, by the Spanish Bureau or direct. Operators mentioned are: Juan, EA5BLJ, Jose, EA5CP and Jose, EA5YU. The operators will be there between 21 and 24 November and plan to be active outside of the contest on 80 - 10 metres using 100 watts, CW only.



Zambia, 9J. Niko, S53A, will once again be active as 9J3A from the Kafue National Park (WFF-9JFF-003, WWL KH35) between 18 and 26 November (approx). This is his sixth operation from Zambia. Activity will be mostly during the CQ WW DX CW Contest (November 23-24th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power/Unassisted entry. Niko will also be active as 9J3A/m, before and maybe little after the contest, from the Land Rover (out just for the fun) with a small whip antenna and 5 watts. Activity will be on 80 - 10 metres (no 160 m). QSL via S57S (not S53A, not S57A), direct, by the Bureau (a very long wait, see details on QRZ.com) or LoTW.

Burkina Faso, XT2/XT26. Operators David, OK6DJ and Petr, OK1FCJ, will be active as XT26DJ and XT2FCJ between 17 and 26 November. Activity will be on 160 - 10 metres including the 30/17/12 metres using CW and

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SSB. They also will be in the CQ WW DX CW Contest (23 and 24 November) as XT2FCJ. Their set up will be Elecraft K3 and Kenwood TS-480 into a Spiderbeam antenna (20/15/10 m - including the WARC), a vertical (40-10 m), 80 m dipole and LW for 160 m. QSL via OK6DJ for both call signs. QSL methods are: the ClubLog OQRS (for LoTW - confirmed every day), direct (minimum 2 USDs or new IRC (accepted IRC that expire in 2017; QSO confirmed to LoTW every day), OQRS by the Bureau, LoTW and eQSL (confirmed 6 months) and paper QSL via the Bureau (confirmed 12 months). Their Web page is now available at <http://www.mdxco.org/burkinafaso2013>

Cote d'Ivoire, TU. Operators Chris, F4WBN (ex-TLOA), Paul, F6EXV and Jan, DJ8NK will be active as TU5AX, TU5XV and TU5NK, respectively, for a solidarity radio operation which will take place between 17 and 30 November. Activity will be on SSB, CW and RTTY, with operations on 160 - 6 meters (including 60 m). Suggested frequencies are:

CW - 1 826.5, 3 524, 7 024, 10 104, 14 024, 18084, 21 024, 24 894 and 28 024

SSB - 3 799, 5 371.5/5 403.5, 7 070, 14 190, 18 150, 21 190, 24 950 and 28 490

RTTY - 7 050, 10 138, 14 080, 18 100, 21 080, 24 920 and 28 080 kHz

6 m - 50 104/CW and 50 150/SSB

QSL via their home call signs, by the Bureau, direct or the OQRS on Clublog. The logs for TU5NK and TU5XV will be posted on LoTW shortly after the DXpedition ends. Jan informs OPDX, "The 3 operators will support the club station TU2CI and will leave equipment behind (radios and antennas), install it and train the local operators to use it in order to revive the Abidjan radio club, and assist some local hams who have strongly suffered from the civil war that hit the country sometime ago." The group's Web page is available at <http://www.premiumorange.com/tu2013>

African Islands

Madagascar, 5R. By the time you read this, Eric, F6ICX, will once again be active as 5R8IC from Saint Marie Island (AF-090) until 15 December. Activity will be holiday style operating CW, RTTY, and PSK63, and using a FT450 with 100 watts into various GPs or Inverted-L's and a Hexbeam for 20-10 meters. There will be no online log 'during' his activity. QSL via his home callsign (QRZ.com). To see pictures of his previous activity and an online log search from ClubLog, go to http://f6kbk.free.fr/activities/activite_om_rc/5r8ic/5r8ic.htm



Sao Tome and Principe, S9. Operators Giovanni, IK5BCM, Giuseppe, IK5CBE, and Giovanni, IK5CRH will be active as S9TF from Principe Island (AF-044) between 1 and 13 February 2014. Activity will be on 80 - 10 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via IK5CRH.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 18 to 25 November 2013

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 20 November

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 21 November 2013

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint

01:30 - 03:30 UTC 21 November

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 5 watts

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Exchange: RST and state, province or country and NAQCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once

Key Type Mult: 2x if straight key, 1.5x if bug, 1x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 24 November 2013

Upload log at: <http://naqcc.info/sprintlog.html>

Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA

Find rules at: <http://naqcc.info/sprint201311.html>

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:30 - 02:00 UTC 22 November

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 24 November 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 22 November

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 23 November 2013

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint

02:30 UTC-03:00 UTC 22 November

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 24 November 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

CQ Worldwide DX CW Contest

00:00 UTC 23 November to 24:00 UTC 24 November

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high (Option: Classic or Rookie); Single Op Single Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted Single Band - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and CQ Zone No

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 0 points per QSO with same country (counts as mult); 1 point per QSO with different country same continent; 2 points per QSO with different country same continent (NA); 3 points per QSO with different continent

Multipliers: Each CQ zone once per band; Each country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 29 November 2013

E-mail logs to: cw@cqww.com

Web-to-Cabrillo form: http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/cqwwcw_cab.php

Mail logs to: Paper Logs, Box 481, New Carlisle, OH 45344, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>



Next weeks contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 27 November
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 27 November
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 27 November and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 28 November
QRP ARCI Topband Sprint, 00:00 - 06:00 UTC 28 November
RSGB 80 m Club Sprint, CW, 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 28 November
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 29 November
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 29 November
Feld Hell Sprint, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 30 November
SARL Digital Contest, 13:00 - 16:00 UTC 1 December
ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 3 December

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club is hosting its next flea market 12:00 on Saturday 30 November 2013 at their clubhouse in Kroton street, Weltevredenpark, Roodepoort. Everybody is welcome. For more information contact Geoff, ZS6GRL, on 082 546 5546.

Cape Town ARC End of Year Function. On 30 November at 12:00 noon the Cape Town ARC will be holding it's annual end of year function at the Rondebosch club house. It will be a bring and braai and the fires will be ready by 13:00. Come and join us for this very social function and don't forget to bring the family.

Pretoria Amateur Radio Club Mega Flea Market 7 December 2013. The last ZS6P-TA Mega flea market for 2013 will be held on Saturday 7 December at the Pretoria Motor Club in Silverton from 08:00 to 11:00. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information or to book a table please contact Almero, ZS6LDP, on 083 938 8955. *(Does Pretoria have bigger fleas than the West Rand?)*



History This Week for the week starting 18 November 2013

1621 - Galileo perfects the telescope
1866 - the first U.S. patent for a yoyo was issued to J. L. Haven and C. Hittrick of Cincinnati, Ohio
1883 - Standard time zones established by railroads in US & Canada
1888 - William Bundy patents the time card clock.
1906 - A US patent was issued for the crystal detector to G Pickard.
1906 - International Radio Telecommunications Com, Berlin, adopts "SOS" as new call for help.
1931 - Commercial teletype service begins
1947 - 200" mirror arrives at Mt Palomar Observatory

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslines, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC News